

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 02312 230957Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 EB-07 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CPR-01

CIEP-01 AID-05 STR-01 /083 W
----- 012856

P R 230825Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9017

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2312

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, UR, EEWT

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN "FRIENDSHIP OFFENSIVE" TOWARD THE US

1. SUMMARY. HIGH BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS HAVE LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN OF FRIENDLINESS TOWARD THE US IN SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR. SOME OF THE MEETINGS WERE SUDDENLY SCHEDULED AFTER HAVING BEEN SOUGHT AS PROTOCOL VISITS EIGHT MONTHS AGO. THE MESSAGE IS THAT BASIS EXISTS FOR CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION OF RELATIONS WITH US, AND THAT IT IS HOPED SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL VISIT BULGARIA IN 1975. MOST IMPORTANT PERSONAGE MAKING THOSE POINTS WAS BORIS VELCHEV, REGARDED BY SOME AS LIKELY SUCCESSOR TO ZHIVKOV. FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV, WHILE STRESSING THE IMMUTABILITY OF BULGARIA'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH USSR, SAID IT IS AN "EQUALLY" ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLE OF BULGARIAN POLICY TO SEEK FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSE COOPERATION WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SOFIA 02312 230957Z

COUNTRIES OF OTHER SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND PROMINENTLY

AMONG THEM WITH THE US. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BULGARIA ALSO GAVE IT AS HIS "IMPRESSION" THAT BULGARIANS ARE VERY HOPEFUL OF A KISSINGER VISIT IN 1975. EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEXT STEPS WITH RESPECT TO BULGARIA WILL BE MADE IN CONTEXT OF MFN AND OTHER PENDING MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING PAST TWO WEEKS I HAVE HAD A PLETHORA OF APPOINTMENTS WITH BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS, SOME OF THEM AS RESULT OF REQUESTS FOR COURTESY CALLS WHICH DATED FROM LAST APRIL. CLEARLY THESE CONVERSATIONS WERE ORCHESTRATED TO SEND A SIGNAL THAT BULGARIA WANTS TO MOVE FORWARD IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US.

3. MOST IMPORTANT WAS TALK DEC. 20 WITH BORIS VELCHEV, PARTY SECRETARY, POLITBURO MEMBER AND REGARDED BY SOME AS SECOND IN POWER TO ZHIVKOV. VELCHEV WAS ILL AT EASE, AS IF HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO COMPORT HIMSELF IN PRESENCE OF A FOREIGN AMBASSADOR (HE REMARKED THAT HE NORMALLY DOES NOT SEE "REPRESENTATIVES OF CAPITALIST COUNTRIES"), TOOK COPIOUS NOTES OF WHAT I TOLD HIM ABOUT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND APPARENTLY HAD THE TASK OF SLIPPING INTO AN OTHERWISE BOILERPLATE LECTURE THE POINTS THAT BULGARIA DURING 1974 HAS MADE A NUMBER OF APPROACHES IN OUR DIRECTION AND THAT IT IS HOPED SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL VISIT SOFIA NEXT YEAR. (HE ALSO REMARKED THAT IT IS TOO BAD THE SECRETARY HAS NOT YET FOUND TIME TO RECEIVE THE BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR.)

4. THE TWO FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, KRUSTYU TRICHKOV AND PETUR TANCHEV, ALSO RECEIVED ME AND SPOKE WARMLY ABOUT THE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR EXPANSION OF MUTUALLY PROFITABLE RELATIONS WITH THE US. TRICHKOV, WHO ON PAPER IS THE PERSON NEXT IN SENIORITY TO ZHIVKOV IN THE TOP GOVERNMENTAL ORGAN, SAID HE HEARD THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION EXTENDED BY FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV TO VISIT BULGARIA AND THOUGHT THERE WAS REASON TO BELIEVE IN LIGHT OF THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES THAT THAT VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SOFIA 02312 230957Z

IN 1975. I MADE NO COMMENT. TRICHKOV ALSO INDICATED THAT ZHIVKOV WOULD AT ANY TIME BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE ME, EVEN WHEN THERE IS NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM TO DISCUSS.

5. MOST RECENT AND MOST CAREFULLY PHRASED WAS WHAT FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV SAID WHEN I CALLED ON HIM DEC 21 TO HAND HIM PRESIDENT FORD'S REPLY TO ZHIVKOV LETTER. ONLY AT THE VERY END, ALMOST AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT,

HE SAID "PLEASE REMIND SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT HE HAS AN INVITATION TO VISIT BULGARIA WHICH IS SITUATED IN THE CENTER OF THE BALKANS". EARLIER HE MADE THESE POINTS: THAT BULGARIA HAS TWO EQUALLY WELL-ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES IN ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS -- FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY THE USSR, AND DESIRE TO DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF THEIR SOCIAL SYSTEM AND PROMINENTLY AMONG THEM WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID HE REALIZES BULGARIA COMES LOW ON OUR PRIORITY LIST IN EASTERN EUROPE. THERE HAS BEEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PROGRESS IN OUR RELATIONS DURING THE LAST YEAR, BUT THERE COULD BE MORE, AND BULGARIA IS NOT PRESSING US SINCE "LOVE IS A GOOD THING ONLY IF IT IS MUTUAL".

6. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO GOTTEN INTO THE ACT. WHEN I SAW HIM RECENTLY FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON, HE SAID HE HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT BULGARIANS ARE VERY HOPEFUL THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL VISIT HERE IN 1975 AND THAT THEY ARE A BIT PUT OUT THAT HE OVERFLEW THEIR COUNTRY (WHEN EN ROUTE FROM BUCHAREST TO BELGRADE) WITHOUT FINDING EVEN AN HOUR TO TOUCH DOWN AND SHAKE THE OUTSTRETCHED BULGARIAN HAND. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ALSO GAVE IT AS HIS OPINION THAT 1975 COULD SEE A CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION OF US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS.

7. AS DEPT IS AWARE, I HAVE NOT MADE A RECOMMENDATION WITH REGARD TO A VISIT HERE BY THE SECRETARY. THIS IS BECAUSE THE MATTER CANNOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION FROM THE QUESTION OF MFN NEGOTIATIONS AND THE PENDING AGREEMENTS THAT BULGARIA HAS PROPOSED. NOW THAT THE TRADE BILL HAS PASSED, WE ARE PREPARING A REVIEW OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SOFIA 02312 230957Z

US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS WHICH WILL CONTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEXT STEPS AND THEIR TIMING.
HERZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS MEETINGS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SOFIA02312
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740372-0636
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741214/aaaaalwz.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <11 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BULGARIAN "FRIENDSHIP OFFENSIVE" TOWARD THE US
TAGS: PFOR, EEW, BU, UR, US, COMMUNIST PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005